

## **ISSUES IN GIRL-CHILD EDUCATION IN NIGERIA: IMPLICATIONS FOR LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SUPPORT**

**Ifijeh Goodluck I\* & Osayande Odaro**

Centre for Learning Resources,  
Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria

### **Abstract**

Girl-child education has become a matter of concern to stakeholders in Nigeria. This study examines the concept of and crucial issues in girl-child education. It identifies socio-cultural patterns, religious misconceptions, poverty, teenage pregnancy and early marriage amongst others as factors militating against the girl-child education. The paper advocates that public and school libraries must begin to play relevant roles and contribute to the eradication of discriminations against women. It outlines the roles public and school libraries must play in order to improve girl-child enrollment in school as well as reduce school drop-out. In order to effectively play their roles, the study suggests that libraries should source for funds from external agencies rather than depend only on their parent institutions/organizations.

**Key words:** Girl-child; Education; School libraries; Public libraries; Nigeria

### **Introduction**

In the traditional Nigerian society, there exists the degenerate believe that women are second class citizens (Enejere, 1991). A woman is considered as a man's property or pleasure object. She is also considered as a 'machine' meant for producing children. This situation has resulted in unfair treatment of women especially with regards to education. The average rural Nigerian parent would rather invest in the education of the son rather than the daughter (Ada, 1992). Enejere (1991) further avers that gender inequality in Nigeria is promoted by religious and communal customs. Young girls

---

\* E-mail: [ifijehgoodluck@yahoo.com](mailto:ifijehgoodluck@yahoo.com)